This report outlines the European Union's Community Initiatives for Citizenship Education Regionally Organized (CICERO) pilot project, its results, and suggestions for further action. It describes the participants from seven different groups at their first meeting in Barnsley, England, and each group's definition of what it would like European citizenship to mean in practical terms. Then, the opinions of two participants in the project are presented. Profiles of the groups from Liverpool, Dearne Valley, Belfast, Leeds, Castleford, Birmingham, and Oxford are then provided. The program for the 3-day intensive workshop in Brussels, November 26-28, 1996, is described. The following activities on day 1 are summarized: an introduction (Nick Blow) on the European Union and what citizenship means; an overview of the SOCRATES program (Angela Vegliante); presentation on education/training in Denmark (Inken Meinertz, Sven Solvig); visit to Conseil des Communautes Africaine en Europe; and presentations on programs for socially excluded groups, including Directorate General (DG) V (Frances Whyte), European Social Fund (Adeline Farrelly), Helios Project (Roddrick Skinner); and European Year against Racism 1997 (Tanya Lee). Day 2 activities included the following: meeting with Neil Kinnock, Transport Commissioner, and Stephen Hughes, Social Affairs Committee; meeting with the European Women's Lobby (Jyostna Patel); visit to Older Flemish Learners' Center; meeting with Tony Venables, European Citizen's Action Group; and DG XVI: Regional Development Meeting (Graham Meadows). The dialogue session on day 3 is followed by a list of outcomes from and aims and objectives of the CICERO Project. (YLB)
I welcome this report and the initiative we funded through the European Year of Lifelong Learning in 1996. In particular it was good to see a project that reached out at grass-roots level and invited people from excluded groups to come to the heart of Europe and its decision-making. This was a dynamic group, of diverse ages and ethnic backgrounds, with whom I had a lively dialogue in Brussels.

I know many of them had never been abroad before. Many also had no sense of themselves as 'European' but this began to change during this project and I believe a new dimension of experience and learning was opened up.

I wish CICERO well for the future.

Jimmy Jamar
European Year of Lifelong Learning Co-ordinator
DGXII Brussels

Introduction

What does it mean to be a citizen of Europe? Especially if you feel excluded from most forms of decision-making, through work or education.

CICERO was conceived as a way of giving people with least access to power and authority a real voice within a European context. It was about drawing on their life experience and wisdom to shape education and training policy for adults; giving them the tools to understand citizenship in the UK and Europe and then share their insights with others in their communities.

The 'pilot' was funded by the European Year of Lifelong Learning. There was enough money to bring together a unique combination of unemployed adult learners from different areas: Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, Belfast, Yorkshire (Dearne Valley & Castleford), and Oxford.

All the CICERO participants are adults beginning a journey back into learning. Some are starting to study again after years of exclusion from education, some are widening their choice of curricula, all are discovering the joy and confidence learning brings.

The groups met first in October '96 at Northern College, Barnsley. There were 42 people on a two-day residential course learning how 'Europe' works and researching issues of social exclusion. Representatives of these groups, 18 in all, travelled to Brussels in November '96 for a five day study tour, sharing the trip with members of WEA, Yorkshire South.

Conclusion

This unique and innovative project, in bringing seven groups of unemployed and excluded people directly to the centre of decision-making in Europe has taken a practical step towards defining what it means to be a citizen of Europe. Participants, activists in local communities hungry for such information have learnt about Europe, its institutions and funding regimes. They have had an experience of going to Brussels and meeting other excluded groups as well as policy-makers. A dynamic network of people within the UK committed to opening doors for others has been created.

The Jean Monnet group of Experts report, "Crisis or Opportunity" (1996) stated "social exclusion is endemic. It endangers the social cohesion both of the member states and of the Union... a vicious circle of exclusion sets in, for example, among the long term unemployed and those without educational qualifications".

The CICERO project has taken a step in combating such exclusion and given its members a new confidence and a voice to use, in Europe and at home.

This report outlines the CICERO pilot project, its conclusions and suggestions for further action. As much as possible, it uses the words of the participants themselves. It will hopefully be a useful resource for others and a way of continuing this exciting and unique learning project.
CICERO participants from seven different groups came together for the first time at Northern College near Barnsley. It was a two day intensive introduction to each other and to Europe. The aim was to give an overview of the main Brussels institutions and understand something about who is included and excluded from the rights to be a European citizen. Firstly, people wrote their “learning diaries”. These explained what learning and life-skills they have gained and what they hoped to achieve to include all sections of all communities, using NVQs.

Deane Valley
- Access to lifelong learning for all
- Information on benefits for all excluded groups
- Information on funding from Europe easily accessible

Belfast
- Affirmative action on women’s jobs
- More vocational training linked to actual jobs
- Addressing the issue of ID cards
- Making MEPs answerable at local level

Leeds
- Equal rights for minority groups
- Addressing unemployment as a priority
- Exchanges with groups across Europe for language and cultural learning

Castlford
- Lifelong learning, especially for elderly people
- Standardisation of accreditation
- Monitoring the role of the media in spreading racism and exclusion of groups such as the deaf

Birmingham
- European level Commission for Racial Equality
- More funding for and accreditation for lifelong learning
- Core curriculum on European Studies across the EU

Oxford
- Provision for care at home
- Links across EU for adult learners
- Information on funding at local level

"Formed wonderful friendships not only with colleagues of the WEA but also with people from other organisations, ethnic backgrounds, throughout the UK and Ireland. A wonderful learning experience."

Profile of Groups

Deane Valley WEA
A group of women from ‘the Deane’ decided to form their own branch of the Workers Education Association having completed the Combined Studies courses provided by Rochdale WEA. The Deane, an ex-mining area in South Yorkshire has high rates of unemployment, almost 1 in 3 adults are on benefits. The women, mainly mothers with children who had lived with feelings of “no hope” for years and saw education as a way of finding a future. The branch, now run locally, provides a range of courses - from creative writing, playgroup skills, literacy and computer studies, for yoga and languages. A crucial element is free childcare, enabling women - and lone parents - to participate full time.

Fircroft Adult Education College, Birmingham
The group are all members of the ‘Working With People’ course run by Fircroft College. It was at first as a new course teaching skills to community activists. CICERO participants all had immense experience of working in local groups, the Bangladeshi Youth Association, after-school clubs and tenants organisations. Inspired by what they have learnt group members have now set themselves up as a community organisation ‘Working With People’ so as to keep their skills within the community and to help others gain qualifications which draws people away into higher education. Their first priority is to set up homework centres for children and their parents.

Liverpool Community Rights
The Community Rights Organisation set up a Community Learning Network in the city, part of which is a European Network involving grass-roots organisations and their volunteers in community regeneration. Participants in the network were keen to learn more about the European Union and how its institutions and political systems work, since Liverpool has the crucial ‘Objective 1’ status. As well as bringing millions of pounds into the city this initiative has sought to involve local groups in decision-making and bidding for resources. The CICERO project has uniquely met the need for understanding Europe by giving them residential courses, then the first hand experience of Brussells, which has given them enormous confidence to share their experiences and new understanding with other grass-roots organisations in the city.

Castleford Women’s Centre
In the aftermath of the 1984 Miners' Strike a group of ex-miners' wives in Castleford, West Yorkshire began to campaign for more learning opportunities in the area. They set up a centre which has since been named the ‘University of Life’, reflecting the extraordinary range of courses and training available from its limited premises in the town centre. Over 1,000 women per year now use the facility, supervised by the free childcare facilities available.

The centre has recently been recognised by the University of Leeds as a centre for external degree courses. Devastated by the loss of jobs in the area, the Centre is now looking for practical ways to create ‘real training’ linked to new jobs in such industries as tourism, leisure and culture. The Brussels visit provided crucial contacts and ideas for developing some of their initiatives.

Ruskin College, Oxford
The group are all adult learners, recently attracted back to learning through the Ruskin Learning Project. The ‘Changing Directions’ and ‘New Directions’ courses at the college give unemployed adults the opportunity to get study skills and to cover an exciting range of courses including English and writing skills, practical and social economy. There is an emphasis on encouraging active debate about crucial issues facing society. In this context the opportunity for members of the group to visit Northern College and Brussels added an exciting dimension to the students’ own education. The project has been able to organise cross-community political discussion in both loyalist and nationalist areas during a time of worsening political circumstances. It has organised faster sessions, area based discussions and political education classes in seven women’s centres, attended by over 400 learners. Practical skills-based training such as negotiation skills and dealing with the media have been organised in 5 areas. The three women, from different communities, joining the CICERO project, were keenly aware of double exclusion from Europe as women and as citizens of Northern Ireland. They were determined to make links and bring back information to gain more resources for their work.

Thomas Danby College, Leeds
The Leeds group, African-Caribbean members of the Chapeltown/Harehills community in Leeds were drawn from the college. At age 16 most of them have left school with no qualifications. South Yorkshire has high rates of unemployment; almost 1 in 3 adults are on benefits. The women, mainly mothers with children who had lived with feelings of “no hope” for years and saw education as a way of finding a future. The branch, now run locally, provides a range of courses - from creative writing, playgroup skills, literacy and computer studies, for yoga and languages. A crucial element is free childcare, enabling women - and lone parents - to participate full time.

"It became apparent during our visits that the 'truth is out there' but how do we the Citizens of Europe access it? As a result of the visit I now see myself as a citizen of Europe and I will do my best to pass on the information and learning experiences of the EU to others."
Introduction by Nick Blow
The European Union

Maastricht

The European Community (EEC replaced by EC)
Common Foreign & Security Policy
Justice & Internal Affairs

Citizenship means:

Rights:
Freedom of movement
Freedom to study
Freedom to work anywhere - if you have means to support yourself, if qualifications recognised.
If self-employed - to set up business
Freedom to retire anywhere - if you have own pension
Right to vote
Right to diplomatic assistance in any country
Right to issue of passport (if 15 member states)
Right to set up business

Develop citizenship
Equal opportunities
Rights to vote in local and European elections

AV gave an overview of the SOCRATES scheme which now encompasses several actions previously free standing.
The main thrust was Education, from Schools to universities, and includes a range of actions from the school systems to the professional world. The programme aims to support the development of education and training systems across the European Union and to promote friendly contacts between them. The scheme supports the development of training and education systems, as well as the creation of networks and partnerships between educational institutions and organizations.

The Brussels visit gave people an insight into Europe through meetings at 3 levels:

- EU officials, policy-makers, such as Graham Meadows, Director of Regions for UK, France and Germany, Jimmy Jamas, Head of European Year of Lifelong Learning and senior politicians such as Neil Kinnock, Transport Commissioner and Pauline Greene, MEP, Leader of the majority Socialist Group in Parliament.
- Non-Governmental Organisations such as the European Women's Lobby and Danish Trade Union officials from the European TUC.
- Community organisations such as the Communauté Africaine de Belgique (African Migrant organisation of Belgium) and Flemish adult learners.

From Belfast to Brussels-direct

European Commission
(20 members)
Right of initiative
Executive Power
Guardian of the Treaties ("Police Force")

European Parliament
Political Power Legislative Power Budgetary Power

Council of Ministers
1 minister per Member State

The European Council
Weighed voting in the Council
Issues watered down to get agreement from all member states
Blocking minority of 26 out of 87.

SOCRATES (DG XXII) - Angela Vegliante

At the African Centre

Visit to Conseil des Communautés Africaines en Europe.

Background
The organisation was formed in 1991 as a result of a meeting of migrant groups. It also has a base in France, and a seat on the EU migrant forum. There are currently 27 member organisations from all over Belgium. Its main objectives to promote the cultural, economic and political well-being of migrants in Europe.

The Agenda
Most people felt this was one of the highlights of the week. The warmth of the welcome and the variety of activities was

MINISTRY OF LABOUR
Set up I.V.T. (Schools for Innovation Vocational Training)
Adopted schools to educate/train people with business and/or technical objectives.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Set up Adult Training Centre for elementary training and teaching languages.

The greatest social challenge facing Europe at the end of this millennium is that of unemployment. In countries of the European Union over 8 million people are registered as unemployed. In spite of technological advances, more and more people are added to the increasing numbers of excluded groups, trapped in an unemployment spiral which alienates (those without work) from the labour market. Economic insecurity often leads to electoral instability - a threat to the stability of Europe and, indeed, democracy itself.

The scheme is company-based. Employers commit themselves to a nominal training target of say five per cent of their workforce over five years. The amount of training per worker might vary from one month, to one year. The whole idea underlying the scheme is that while an individual is away from work on a course, an unemployed person takes on the job temporarily and is trained in situ. Thus, two people are trained at the same time, the original worker upgrades his/her skills, the unemployed person receives proper, practical and relevant on the job training. Both become better qualified, more confident etc.

Course range from basic (core) skills to professional and degree/post graduate levels.

AV acknowledged that there was a very wide difference between the Nordic group of Member states and the southerly ones. The former was more informal with well developed pathways into learning. Britain's system was particularly well developed.

Moving southwards the Systems become more formal and less flexible with a major concentration on the school systems and very little outside.

DG XXII sees the links between AE and the Labour Market. There is a committee set up to study the links between LEONARDO and SOCRATES activities. Deadline for the next round would be February, 1997. The staff of the Technical Assistance offices would evaluate bids and pass on to a SOCRATES Committee. The D.E.E would advise. Successful bids would start in August and run for up to 3 years. Grant intervention is to 80%.

The Danish belief is that learning leads to activity - a threat to the stability of Europe and, indeed, democracy itself.

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overwhelming. Suzanne was our host initially, and made everyone welcome. Translation was provided by Julia, Roger Barton's assistant, from Cologne, and Abu who represents "Truth" make T-shirts, "Light" tells children fairy tales, and "MIIJA" which is a combination of 2 members, from the French and Flemish - speaking quarters. "Truth" make T-shirts, "Light" tells children fairy tales, and "MIIJA" helps both those wishing to integrate into Belgian society.

Roger Barton's assistant, from Cologne, and Abu who represents "Truth" make T-shirts, "Light" tells children fairy tales, and "MIIJA" helps both those wishing to integrate into Belgian society. In spite of this, the organisation has achieved notable successes, particularly through the EU forum, most notably the insertion of racism as a common EU problem in the main text of the Maastricht Treaty, whereas initially it had merely been inserted in the Annex. Abu spoke about the difficulties in obtaining political asylum in Belgium, for instance it can take up to 5 years for people to obtain employment even though they have been granted asylum. Those granted asylum are given a "newspaper" identity. There was a brief opportunity for some of the WEA/CICERO group to introduce themselves before visiting MATONGE the African Quarter. MATONGE is a major cultural town in Zaire, recreated in Brussels, housing cafes, African music shops, staging events, and an extraordinary number of hair salons. The group walked around the quarter and its Point covered.

1. The single act of 1985 gave a new competence of citizens' right to employment and education
2. Employment clause
3. Employment clause
4. Employment clause
5. Employment clause
6. Employment clause

Future plans.
1. Parental leave directive
2. New treaty, enlarging the social charter to include: -citizens right to unemployment and education -employment clause -clause against discrimination in any form

Adeline Farrell - ESF
Gave overview on European Social Fund (ESF)
ESF targets:
1. Improving access to and the quality of education and initial training
2. Adapting the workforce to changes by promoting continuing training
3. Anticipating market labour trends and training requirements
4. Boosting human potential in the fields of research, science and technology
5. Developing a set of measures which forms a pathway to integration for those experiencing long term unemployment and exclusion from the labour market
6. Promoting equal opportunities between men and women.
There are 3 different ways to access funding.
Mainstream (90%) 6 different objectives:
Regional objectives:
1. Objective 1 (48%) - areas with less than 90% of the community GDP
2. Objective 2 (27%) - areas of severe industrial decline
3. Objective 3 (23%) - rural areas
4. Objective 4 (10%) - areas of low population density
5. Objective 5 (6%) - areas with less than 9% of community initiatives are organised directly from Brussels.
6. Objective 6 (4%) - areas with less than 9% of community initiatives are organised directly from Brussels.

Community initiatives (9%):
1. To fund programmes proposed by the committee
2. Foster innovative policy developments related to ESF goals;
3. That have a particular impact at community level;
4. That are transnational.

Other actions (including innovative measures):

Rodrick Skinner - Hellos Project
There has been a community action project called the " Hellos " Project running from 1993, due to finish in December 1996. As a result of the project a new disability strategy was adopted in July 1996, that set out 6 concrete actions:
1. Mainstreaming of EU policies
2. Co-operation of member states
3. Lowering of barriers for disabled people
4. Encouragement of NGO's (non governmental organisations)
5. Strengthening of employment policy
6. The potential of the information society (IT etc.)
7. Harnessing of structural funds.

The common task is one of valuing and making space for human diversity. This is especially relevant in a peoples that values fairness as well as efficiency.

Tanya Lee - European Year Against Racism 1997
There are 4 main objectives for the year;
1. To highlight the threat posed by racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism
2. To encourage reflection and discussion on measures to combat the above
3. To promote the exchange of experiences on good practice
4. To disseminate information on such good practice
5. To make known the benefits of integration policies implemented at a national level
6. To turn to good account wherever possible the experience of person-actually affected or likely to be.

The success of the year will be reliant on the willingness of the member state to take it on board.
The year has a budget of 4.7 million ECU, there will be a call for tenders for projects in January 1997.
The national co-ordination committee:
Ms Julie Cloudez, Community Relations Unit, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate London SW1
Tel: 0171 2732969 Fax: 0171 2733771

- Neil Drew, Sheffield

WEDNESDAY 27th NOVEMBER
Meeting with Neil Kinnock, Transport Commissioner & Stephen Hughes, MEP.
Neil's address was inevitably cut short by the pressure of the French truck-drivers strike and the need to make a statement to Parliament. He did, however, offer his support and commitment to the aims of CICERO and to the WEA. Having been an adult education tutor at one time, he was convinced of the power of learning in enabling people to gain access and control of their lives, making a fuller contribution to their communities. He encouraged us to use our rights as citizens of the UK and Europe and to question the media account of Europe. Stephen Hughes, Chair of the Social Affairs Committee; the committee responsible for ESF funding, said that only 9% of community initiatives are organised directly from Brussels. National and local governments have a key role to play - and thus can block initiatives. The committee is also responsible for advising on legislation including the Social Chapter. The Essen agreement was a commitment to tackle unemployment through vocational training and lifelong learning via a series of measures. Fifteen million ecu would be made available this year (97) to kick start the 'third sector' eg co-operatives and self employed people. The Committee is particularly keen to build bridges between the Commission and citizens of Europe, creating a 'Civil Dialogue' especially through the voluntary sector. There will be a series of conferences organised around this theme by the UK's NCVO, Emma Baker, with which we were encouraged to engage. He also said that delays in funding could be shifted within 24 hours if direct contact is made with his office.
Frances Homewood, CICERO

44 We sat and listened to the Parliament work, some of them did my knob dropped off my earphones and I tried to shut those looking interested and fiddled with my knapsack and home as a witness to the memory of what Parliament was...
The European Women's Lobby was founded in September 1990 as a response to the lack of representation of women at all levels in the European Community. The EWL is the largest co-ordinating body of national and European non-governmental women's organisations in the European Union and it fulfils 4 functions:

- It conveys the opinion of its members to politicians and officials at the European and national levels to ensure that women's concerns are heard and understood by those taking policy decisions.
- It serves its members by providing information about European policy which may directly affect the lives of women in the European Union. It is a networking base which helps national and European groups to communicate among themselves.
- It assists in the development of transnational campaigns.
- It assists in the revision of the Treaty eg:

  - the revision of Article 129 on Equal Pay for Equal Work to "work of equal value".
  - Challenging racism and xenophobia
  - to accord NGOs consultative status in the EU

Planning Ahead

- The EWL is seeking funding from the Citizens first initiative to hold a NGO Women's Forum on the IGC.
- Follow-up work on the UN conference in Beijing is a priority.
- The establishment of a European Centre on Women and Human Rights is planned encompassing:
  - an observatory on violence against women
  - an advisory group
  - opportunities to examine legal instruments in detail

- a Steering Committee with an international focus on the impact of conflict and war vis a vis refugees/migrant women

It was noted that a new budget line has been introduced to deal with violence against women, adolescents and children.

Contact:
General Secretary, Barbara Helfferich
European Women's Lobby, Rue du Me ridien, 22
B-1210 Brussels Tel: 32221900 Fax: 3222199855

Kal Nawaz, Sheffield City Council

Visit to Older Flemish Learners' Centre:

Christus Stein very kindly agreed to talk to us about their work. The centre is a social, cultural and welfare organisation for the minority Flemish speaking elderly in Brussels - interestingly there is no similar organisation for French speaking Belgiums. The centre runs courses on an enormous range of cultural subjects, such as Literature and History, as well as Arts and Crafts such as Drawing and Painting and Sports such as cycling tours, ball games, Tai-Chi-Chuan and gymnastics. We were very impressed by the huge range of courses and activities. Where possible, tutors are drawn from the group and they obviously have a good number of retired teachers/lecturers to call on. We were particularly interested to find out that, as well as these social and cultural subjects, the centre also runs welfare-based courses such as "Memory-training," "Dealing with emotions/feelings," and runs programmes to help those caring for people with Alzheimer's and organises sheltered housing, peer visiting schemes etc. As well as the Centre that we visited, there is a network of around 20 community centres in Brussels serving the needs of the elderly in their particular area.

Meeting with the European Women's Lobby

Speaker: Jytte Stan Pael, Researcher Background

The European Women's Lobby was founded in September 1990 as a response to the lack of representation of women at all levels in the European Community. The EWL is the largest co-ordinating body of national and European non-governmental women's organisations in the European Union and it fulfils 4 functions:

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Meeting with Tony Venables, Director, European Citizen's Action Group

ECAS gives funding advice through their European Advisory Funding Service Office. They help access ECUs, or soon to be Euros, for non-government organisations. The bulk of the money, approx. 90%, is project money. Many of the projects are very sophisticated. They are trying to make available a Micro Project fund so people can access smaller pockets of money. ECAS are trying to organise this so they can help smaller organisations such as ourselves.

ECAS also give advice on making your voice heard. They are also experts on lobbying European issues and that was the reason for them setting up in the first place. There are 10,000 lobbyists in Brussels. Structures need to be in place to make lobbying effective. They help group people from different countries together to make their voices bigger.

As regards citizens rights in Europe we have had a lot to do with the Citizens First Programme which started 26 November 1996. The UK has opted out of this programme which deals with and addresses the problems of citizens rights across Europe. There is no sign of a big governmental push towards a Bill of Rights for citizens. The idea has been squashed, only the Germans showed any interest. Certain clauses may be added to the Maastricht Treaty such as Human Rights, Racism, Sexism and Sexual discrimination bills but only in sections, not as a whole citizen rights in the European Treaty. ECAS give advice on the free movement of people in Europe for work or other purposes but the laws that are in place do not cover casual work. They say that jobs should be posted in job centres so whole families can up and move to find work, and in doing so not affect their health and pension rights which they do at present. Countries are still scared of people moving to claim the highest amount of benefits eg. to Denmark, but figures show that out of 37o million people only 5.5 million are living in other member states. They think that soon people will be able to move abroad to work for one year with no paperwork and no penalties on movement of Social Security, Healthcare and private pension schemes. Also talked about was the news of three month visa free travel for members who signed the Schengen Agreement. These countries are Benelux, France and Spain. Italy, Sweden and Denmark have signed but it has not been implemented yet. Again the UK opted out. There is also a project for NGOs to move freely across Europe.
borders and ECAS would be able to point people in the right direction to find European partners from a database of 4000 addresses. And finally we were asked if we would be interested in a summer school, to get together and form partnerships with NGOs from other countries, covering such topics as Social fund training and discussions on Citizens' rights. Tony Venables would be interested to hear from us.

Tel: 00322 254 80490
Simone Bellandini, Castleford Women's Centre

DGXVI: Regional Development Meeting with Graham Meadows

Graham Meadows, in charge of DGXVI's operations in UK, France and Germany, began by stressing the importance of overcoming problems with the funding regime; 'of getting things done'. Increasingly, the Commission recognised the need to involve local communities directly. As a result, they were changing the way aid was deployed, to make funding more flexible and to ensure it helped to develop the capacity of communities to get things done.

Some examples:
- they had been encouraging local representation on monitoring committees, following the Merseyside example, a trend which would be strengthened by the regionalisation of ESF objective 3 funding
- they were keen to see technical assistance for local capacity building for economic development (see the report on Social Exclusion and Economic Development produced by prof. Peter Lloyd's team at Liverpool University's Geography Department)
- they would like to see more local people with expertise on European funding able to help communities learn the (EU) ropes.

A useful development which might be eligible for EU technical assistance would be e-mail links between communities. Set against their flexibility in interpreting and applying the rules, DGXVI did have three inflexible rules:
1. money intended for particular communities must be spent in those communities
2. there had to be watertight boundaries to priority areas to underpin the above
3. programmes must be locally designed.

Graham Meadows, Tel: 00322 254 6461 Fax: 00322 296 6096

THURSDAY 28th NOVEMBER

Dialogue session with Pauline Greene, MEP, Roger Barton, MEP and Jimmy Jamar, Head of European Year of Lifelong Learning.

Jimmy Jamar explained that many themes have been chosen over the years
- Year of Cancer Awareness
- Year of Elderly
- Year of Cinema, etc
30,000 people had been surveyed within 18 countries on their attitudes towards education. Of these,
- Had done no training/learning within the previous year.
- There is a growing gap between school and the workplace
- Restructuring of work.

"We then heard about 'Citizen First' initiative to tell people what being a European citizen is all about. This is launched today but we will not hear anything about it as the UK is not taking part.'"

Changes are taking place. We can no longer assume that life will be categorised as follows:
- Education
- Work
- Retirement
People need to be prepared to retrain and update their educational qualifications skills throughout their lives. There are problems with illiteracy throughout Europe. The "information society" may create further inequalities.

Neil Kinnock meets the Fircroft group

Mary with Glenys Kinnock

Stepping out in Brussels

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
OUTCOMES FROM THE CICERO PROJECT

- An impressive commitment to continue CICERO with its networks of unemployed and excluded groups, has been forged through the 'pilot' phase. Further funding is now being sought.

- Personal links made with policy-makers at European level continue and will be strengthened by a further, shorter study-tour to Brussels in April '97, which will include CICERO participants.

- Ruskin College intend to run courses on Europe as part of their 'Return to Learn' programme. The Oxford 'CICERO' group plan a dayschool in which they will disseminate information gained through the project.

- A national Steering Group has been formed with representatives from all seven local groups. MEP's and local council officials are being invited to join as honorary members. Three of the seven groups have formed local 'CICERO' branches ie Oxford, Liverpool and Birmingham's 'Working With People' group.

- The whole group is committed to organising a major event to celebrate the European Year Against Racism, including the Birmingham group's own community play about exclusion. The Dearne Valley group intend to stage an event in Barnsley, S Yorkshire - a predominantly white area.

- The Liverpool group are organising a conference, about gaining access to Europe, involving their local MEP. Other CICERO participants will be invited.

- Naomi from Leeds plans to take up a student research placement within the European Women's Lobby in Brussels, Summer '97.

- Trans-European contacts are continuing; the Belgian African migrants organisations has become a partner with CICERO in a Socrates bid; VONEF (Voluntary Action Funding Network) have partnered with an African organisation in Hull as a result of the Brussels visit; Ruskin College are inviting Flemish Adult Learners to visit, Summer '97.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF THE CICERO PROJECT

(Community Initiatives in Citizenship Education Regionally Organised)

Aims
- To raise awareness of and develop European citizenship at a community level.

Objectives
- To empower individuals and groups within local communities through creating learning opportunities about Europe, democracy and citizenship.

- To use lifelong learning as a way of challenging social exclusion and lack of job opportunities. To take particular account within this of the needs of black and Asian people, women, older people and those with disabilities.

- To create a network of groups at community level within the UK and across the European Union, exchanging information and experience of creative learning opportunities for adults. In particular, to find innovative learning projects on citizenship issues.

- To work towards creating employment opportunities for people as community capacity builders/animateurs within their own localities on Europe, democracy and citizenship; thus empowering others to use their rights and access to the full.

- To work in partnership with Colleges, Universities, local government, voluntary sector organisations, trade unions and the media to further these aims.

Learning about Europe at Northern College, Barnsley.
THE FUTURE

CICERO is now being established as a permanent organisation in the UK and establishing transnational partnerships.

The ultimate objective is to see opportunities for learning and citizenship given to excluded groups across the whole 15 member states of the European Union.

If you want further information, or membership for your group, please contact:

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Title: CICERO: First Annual Report

Author(s): Frances Homewood, Project Coordinator

Corporate Source: CICERO Project

Publication Date: May 1997

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